

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
AID-05 ACDA-07 /074 W

-----026235 211251Z /53

O R 211139Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2389

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6346

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

1. "INFORMED SOURCES" ARE QUOTED IN MOST PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS  
JUNE 21 AS CONFIRMING THAT NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WILL  
BE HELD ON OCTOBER 7. THE REPORT CONTINUES THAT PROVINCIAL  
ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 10 AND THAT THE GOVERN-  
MENT PLANS TO DISSOLVE THE CURRENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON JULY 25.

2. DISAGREEMENT OVER THE TIMING OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AMONG OTHER ISSUES HAS CAUSED A DEADLOCUIIN  
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THE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS WHICH ARE CHARGED WITH IRONING OUT  
THE DETAILS OF THE PNA/PPP AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH THE PPP REPRESENT-  
ATIVE, FINANCE MINISTER HAFEEZ PIRZADA, CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT  
THE TALKS ARE ON TRACK AND AN AGREEMENT CAN BE SIGNED ON JUNE  
24, THE PNA MEMBER OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE, PROFESSOR GHAFOR,  
TOLD REPORTERS ON JUNE 20 THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES  
HAVE ARISEN WHICH CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED IN A MAIN COMMITTEE

MEETING WHICH SHOULD BE HELD WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER RETURNS FROM HIS SWING THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST. ALTHOUGH PROFESSOR GHAFOR SAID THAT THERE WERE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES IN ADDITION TO THE DISAGREEMENT OVER A DATE FOR DISSOLVING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HE DID NOT SPELL OUT WHAT ANY OF THE ADDITIONAL DIFFERENCES MIGHT BE.

3. THE PNA LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN DISPLAYING A NEW INTRANSIGENCE AND EXHIBITING INCREASED NERVOUSNESS AND SUSPICION OF THE PM IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE PNA/PPP AGREEMENT. WHILE THE PIR OF PAGARO AND ASGHAR KHAN SOUNDED FREQUENT WARNINGS DURING THE NEGOTIATING PERIOD THESE WERE NOT ECHOED BY THE CENTRAL FIGURES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. LATELY, HOWEVER, LEADERS SUCH AS MUFTI MAHMUD, NAWABZADA NASRULLAH AND PROF. GHAFOR HAVE BEEN WARNING THAT THE PNA WILL RETURN TO THE STREETS IF THEIR DEMANDS ARE NOT SATISFIED AND PROTESTING AT WHAT THEY SEE AS GOVERNMENT DUPLICITY AND DELAYING TACTICS. MOST OBSERVERS FEEL THAT THE PNA LEADERSHIP IS BECOMING NERVOUS ABOUT THE AGREEMENT WITH DOUBTS ABOUT BHUTTO'S COMMITMENT TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, WHICH WERE ALWAYS PRESENT, BEING REINFORCED BY HIS SUDDEN TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT.

4. THE PNA CONTINUES TO VOICE ITS CONCERN OVER THE ARMING OF PPP WORKERS. THE OPPOSITION CLAIMS THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE ONE HUNDRED ARMS LICENSES AND MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES HAVE BEEN

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AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE FIFTY. THE PNA IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT THE ARMS WILL BE USED DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. MUFTI MAHMUD HAS REPORTED THAT THE MATTER WAS RAISED WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO DURING ONE OF THE PLENARY SESSIONS OF THE PNA/PPP COMMITTEE BUT THE PM REFUSED TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

5. DAILY LOW INTENSITY DEMONSTRATIONS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE CONTINUING IN KARACHI, ACCORDING TO OUR CONGEN, DESPITE THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE CALLS FROM BOTH SIDES TO DESIST FROM SUCH ACTIVITY. SOME DISTURBANCES ARE BROKEN UP BY THE POLICE USING TEAR GAS AND LATHI CHARGES. THE PNA HAS CONSISTENTLY DISAVOWED ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEMONSTRATIONS.

6. ALTHOUGH THE PNA AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE JOUSTING OVER THE DATE FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY THERE CAN BE NO DISSOLUTION WITHOUT THE PASSAGE OF AT LEAST ONE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. THE CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES THAT THE SECOND ELECTION WILL INCLUDE SUFFRAGE FOR PAKISTANIS EIGHTEEN AND OVER WHEREAS THE FIRST ELECTION VOTERS' LISTS WERE RESTRICTED TO THOSE 21 AND OVER. SINCE THE REVISION OF VOTERS' LISTS IS AN INTERMINABLE PROCESS, THE TWO SIDES HAVE REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT VOTING IN THE SECOND ELECTION MUST ONCE

AGAIN BE RESTRICTED TO TWENTY-ONE YEAR OLDS AND OVER.  
CONSTABLE

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## Message Attributes

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